

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/977,897
Response and Amendment dated October 31, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated October 2, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner has requested that the Applicants elect the claims of one of Group I, II, or III. Applicants elect without traverse the invention of the claims set forth in Group I - Claims 1 and Claims 5-7. Applicants' election of the Claims of Group I is without prejudice, and Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications at a later date claiming the benefit of priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/977,897 filed October 15, 2001 and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/297,645 filed June 12, 2001 concerning non-elected Claims 2-4 and 21-45 (Group II) and Claims 8-20 (Group III).

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' Application as amended, and the remarks set forth in this paper are responsive to the Office Action mailed October 2, 2003.